

REMARKS

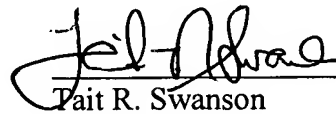
In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 17-20, 32, and 34. The Examiner, however, allowed claims 1, 4-9, 11-16, 21, and 23-31. Additionally, the Examiner objected to claims 33 and 35 for depending from a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims each contain allowable subject matter. Applicants canceled claims 2, 3, 10, and 22 in a previous communication. By the present Response, Applicants have chosen to place the present application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants have amended independent claim 17 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 35 as well as the subject matter of intervening claim 34. Further, Applicants canceled claims 34 and 35 without prejudice. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1, 4-9, 11-21, and 23-33 will remain pending in the present patent application and are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the outstanding rejection and allowance of all pending claims.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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